



# House of Representatives

## File No. 640

General Assembly

January Session, 2013

**(Reprint of File No. 526)**

Substitute House Bill No. 5388  
As Amended by House Amendment  
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
April 26, 2013

### **AN ACT REQUIRING CITIES AND TOWNS TO DESIGNATE A VETERANS' SERVICE CONTACT PERSON.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 27-102l of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
3 *October 1, 2013*):

4 (b) The commissioner may appoint a unit head to administer a  
5 veterans' advocacy and assistance unit for the aid and benefit of  
6 veterans, their spouses and eligible dependents and family members.  
7 Such unit shall conduct an annual training course for any city or town  
8 employee designated a veterans' service contact person pursuant to  
9 subsection (b) of section 27-135, as amended by this act. The unit shall  
10 have a staff of not less than eight men and women, including six  
11 service officers, and clerical personnel. The unit head and the service  
12 officers shall be veterans, as defined in section 27-103, or veterans who  
13 were awarded the armed forces expeditionary medal for service by the  
14 armed forces. At least one of the service officers shall be a woman

15 having a demonstrated interest in the concerns of women veterans,  
16 who shall be responsible for addressing those concerns, and, effective  
17 upon the next opening of a service officer position occurring on or  
18 after July 1, 2010, at least two of the service officers shall be individuals  
19 having bilingual proficiency in English and Spanish, within existing  
20 authorized positions. Each service officer shall successfully complete a  
21 course in veterans' benefits within one year of commencement of  
22 employment and shall be assigned to one of the five congressional  
23 districts of the state.

24 Sec. 2. Section 27-135 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
25 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

26 (a) Any city or town, either separately or with one or more other  
27 cities and towns, may, by ordinance, establish a local veterans'  
28 advisory committee which shall have the responsibility of carrying out  
29 locally the duties and purposes of this section and, within their charter  
30 powers and as otherwise provided by law, may make available to such  
31 local committees the necessary funds to carry out their duties and  
32 responsibilities. The committee may [(a)] (1) act as the coordinating  
33 agency in all matters concerning veterans and their dependents,  
34 coordinating the activities of public and private facilities concerned  
35 with veterans' reemployment, education, rehabilitation and adjustment  
36 to peacetime living; [(b)] (2) cooperate with all national, state and local  
37 governmental and private agencies in securing services and benefits to  
38 which a veteran or his dependents may be entitled; [(c)] (3) use the  
39 services and facilities of the veterans organizations so far as possible to  
40 carry out the purposes of this section; and [(d)] (4) encourage and  
41 coordinate vocational training services for veterans.

42 (b) Any city or town that (1) has not established a local veterans'  
43 advisory committee pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, and (2)  
44 does not otherwise provide funding for a veterans' service officer shall  
45 designate a city or town employee to serve as a veterans' service  
46 contact person in such city or town. Any city or town employee  
47 designated as a veterans' service contact person shall carry out the

48 duties described in subsection (a) of this section and may complete an  
49 annual training course conducted by the veterans' advocacy and  
50 assistance unit, as described in subsection (b) of section 27-102l, as  
51 amended by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	27-102l(b)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	27-135

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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### ***OFA Fiscal Note***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:***

<b>Municipalities</b>	<b>Effect</b>	<b>FY 14 \$</b>	<b>FY 15 \$</b>
Various Municipalities	Potential Cost	Minimal	Minimal

### ***Explanation***

The bill requires municipalities that do not have a veterans' advisory committee or veterans' service officer to appoint an employee to act as a veterans' services contact person, and allows these appointees to attend an annual training course.

There is a potential cost, expected to be minimal, to municipalities associated with any mileage reimbursement or paid leave they may offer to employees that attend the annual training course.

There is no fiscal impact associated with requiring the Department of Veterans' Affairs' advocacy and assistance unit to conduct an annual training course for local veteran service contact persons.

House "A" makes the annual training course optional, and makes another minor change. These changes have no fiscal impact.

### ***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

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**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 5388 (as amended by House Amendment "A")\******AN ACT REQUIRING CITIES AND TOWNS TO DESIGNATE A VETERANS' SERVICE CONTACT PERSON.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires any municipality that does not (1) have a local veterans' advisory committee or (2) fund a veterans' service officer to designate an employee to be its veterans' service contact person. It specifies the contact person's duties.

The bill also requires the Department of Veterans' Affairs' Veterans' Advocacy and Assistance Unit (DVA VAAU) to conduct an annual training course for such contact persons and allows, but does not require, the contact persons to complete that course.

The bill makes conforming changes.

\*House Amendment "A" (1) removes the option of having a representative from a regional planning organization serve as the veteran's service contact person for the municipalities represented by that organization and (2) makes the training course offered by DVA VAAU optional for contact persons.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

**VETERANS' SERVICE CONTACT PERSON'S DUTIES**

Under the bill, the contact person must:

1. coordinate all matters concerning veterans and their dependents;
2. coordinate public and private facilities concerned with veterans' reemployment, education, rehabilitation, and adjustment to

peacetime living;

3. cooperate with all national, state, and local government and private agencies in securing services and benefits to which a veteran or his or her dependents may be entitled;
4. encourage and coordinate veterans' vocational training services; and
5. work with veterans organizations as much as possible to carry out these activities.

Currently, local veterans' advisory committees must perform these activities.

### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 14 Nay 0 (03/12/2013)

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 19 Nay 0 (04/01/2013)